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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/529,197	01/30/2006	Rick Haselton	VB:017US	2125

32425 7590 10/23/2006

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EXAMINER

LAM, ANN Y

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1641

DATE MAILED: 10/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/529,197	HASELTON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Ann Y. Lam	1641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-78 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-78 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

***Lack of Unity***

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not linked as to form a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Group I, claims 1-39, drawn a method of detecting target-probe.

Group II, claims 40-49, and 62-78, an apparatus comprising a chamber and valves.

Group III, claims 50-61, drawn to a filament.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack a common special technical feature over the prior art for the following reasons:

The inventions of Groups I and II are linked together to form a single inventive concept by the apparatus of Group II. However, the apparatus is known in the art, as shown by Newman, US 4,223,002 (disclosing rods as solid supports for immobilizing antibodies—the rods are considered filaments).

Therefore the inventions I and II do not form a general inventive concept as they do not share a common special technical feature over the prior art.

Therefore, the technical feature linking the inventions of groups I and II does not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, as it does not define a contribution over the prior art.

The special technical feature of Group I is considered to be a method of detecting target-probe interactions comprising providing a filament with a first probe and traversing the filament through a chamber and assessing binding.

The special technical feature of Group II is considered to be an apparatus comprising a chamber and two valves.

Accordingly, Groups I and II are not so linked by the same or a corresponding special technical feature as to form a single general inventive concept.

The inventions listed as Groups I and III do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack a common special technical feature over the prior art for the following reasons:

The inventions of Groups I and III are linked together to form a single inventive concept by the apparatus of Group III. However, the apparatus is known in the art, as shown by Newman, US 4,223,002 (disclosing rods as solid supports for immobilizing antibodies—the rods are considered filaments).

Therefore the inventions I and III do not form a general inventive concept as they do not share a common special technical feature over the prior art.

Therefore, the technical feature linking the inventions of groups I and III does not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, as it does not define a contribution over the prior art.

The special technical feature of Group I is considered to be a method of detecting target-probe interactions comprising providing a filament with a first probe and traversing the filament through a chamber and assessing binding.

The special technical feature of Group III is considered to a filament with probes.

Accordingly, Groups I and III are not so linked by the same or a corresponding special technical feature as to form a single general inventive concept.

The inventions listed as Groups II and III do not relate to a single inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack a common special technical feature over the prior art for the following reasons:

The technical feature linking the groups II and III appears to be a filament having probes. . However, this feature is known in the prior art, as shown by Newman, US 4,223,002 (disclosing rods as solid supports for immobilizing antibodies—the rods are considered filaments).

Therefore, the technical feature linking the inventions of groups II and V does not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, as it does not define a contribution over the prior art.

The special technical feature of Group II is considered to be an apparatus comprising a chamber and two valves.

The special technical feature of Group III is considered to be filaments with probes.

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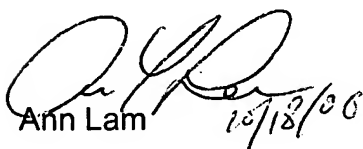
Accordingly, Groups II and III are not so linked by the same or a corresponding special technical feature as to form a single general inventive concept.

Thus, Applicant must elect from one of the above inventions for prosecution.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ann Y. Lam whose telephone number is 571-272-0822. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 10-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on 571-272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

  
Ann Lam 12/18/06